

## **Beppu University (別府大学)**

### Evaluation summary

#### **Standard 1. Mission and Objectives, etc.**

The University has prescribed its mission and goals as well as educational objectives for its faculties, departments, and graduate schools based on its founding principle of “VERITAS LIBERAT”, and has established three policies (diploma, curriculum and admission policies) that clearly reflect its mission, goals, and educational objectives. In addition, the University has responded flexibly to changes in social conditions with measures such as reorganizing departments.

The University’s mission, goals, and educational objectives are made widely known through the University website and various media. Efforts are made to explain these to students through the Student Life guide to university life as well as the Introductory Seminar and University History and Beppu University courses.

With regard to mid- and long-term plans, the University formulated a five-year University Second Med-Term Plan starting in 2017, which is currently being implemented.

#### **Standard 2. Students**

Admission policies are formulated by each department and entrance examinations are implemented in accordance with these policies. Entrants quotas are generally being met appropriately, but greater efforts are desirable for the Department of Food and Fermentation Science, Faculty of Food Science and Nutrition in order to improve the total capacity fill rate.

Common guidelines regarding learning and class instruction support have been prescribed, and a system for providing support through collaboration between faculty and staff has been created. Careful and detailed guidance is provided in accordance with students’ individual needs, including assistance for international students and students with disabilities. Not only has a university-wide system for providing career guidance been established, but also active efforts are being made with regard to student services and living support.

Infrastructure necessary for achieving the University’s educational objectives—campus, buildings, various practical training facilities, and affiliated facilities with museum functions, etc.—has been provided, with consideration also paid to earthquake-resistance and barrier-free access. In order to gain understanding of students’ opinions and requests regarding learning and class instruction support and the learning environment, the University carries out various questionnaires as well as Student-participatory Inspection/Evaluation Meetings Regarding University Initiatives Based on the Three Policies and Student-participatory FD Aimed at Improving Classes.

#### Good points

- The University can be highly evaluated for providing international students with careful and detailed guidance through Japanese-language learning and class instruction support appropriate for each student’s Japanese language proficiency and requiring international students to reside in

a university dormitory for a certain period of time after enrollment.

- The Beppu University Museum and Oita Fragrance Museum are located on the University campus grounds, and the University can be highly evaluated for the fact that all faculties utilize these museums for student education and research purposes.

### **Standard 3. Educational Curriculum**

The departments and graduate schools formulate their own diploma policies in accordance with the educational objectives, and based on these policies standards for awarding credits and certifying graduation and completion are prescribed in the University Regulations and strictly applied. In addition, consistency between curriculum policies and diploma policies is maintained in accordance with Basic Policies Related to the Formulation and Implementation of the Three Policies, and educational curricula are systematically organized.

The Beppu University Assessment Policy was prescribed in the academic year 2018, and the University has established and is implementing inspection and evaluation methods for learning outcomes based on the three policies. Multifaceted evaluations are carried out from three perspectives: evaluations based on students' learning status and attitude surveys, evaluations based on qualification acquisition status and job-hunting status, and external evaluations by graduates and the local community/industry. Furthermore, the President's Advisory Council seeks opinions from outside the University and actively takes these into consideration.

### **Standard 4. Faculty and Staff**

With regard to the University's decision-making, the President decides agenda items that have been proposed by each faculty's Faculty Planning and Operation Council and Department Councils, etc. and then deliberated by the Faculty Council. Furthermore, education and learning operations for the University overall are overseen by the University Planning and Operation Council, which is chaired by the President, and the President's leadership is functioning clearly.

Necessary full-time faculty are allocated in accordance with the Standards for Establishment of Universities as well as criteria related to license or qualifications. An FD Committee has been created and all faculty and staff participate in FD training conducted by the University, with skills development aimed at educational quality assurance carried out proactively.

In addition to providing a research environment, the University has established a Code of Conduct for Research Activities as well as various regulations regarding resource allocation for research activities and public research funding, ensuring that its administration is carried out appropriately.

### **Standard 5. Management, Administration and Finance**

The University's social mission and objectives as an educational institution is clearly stated in the articles of endowment, and operations are carried out appropriately in accordance with the University's Incorporated Entity Second Mid-term Plan and annual business plans.

The University has prescribed regulations pertaining to environmental conservation, human rights, and security, and pays consideration to these issues.

The Board of Directors operates appropriately and auditors are appointed and carry out their duties appropriately. Moving forward, appropriate measures need to be taken to ensure that councilors are appointed as prescribed in the articles of endowment.

The financial status of the University's incorporated entity overall and of the University is healthy, and fiscal balance has been achieved. Accounting procedures are carried out properly, with the University establishing and implementing an accounting audit system.

Good point

- With regard to its financial base, the University can be highly evaluated for maintaining stable profitability over a long period of time as well as remaining out of debt, achieving balance between income and expenditure.

### **Standard 6. Internal Quality Assurance**

In accordance with the Regulations on Beppu University Planning and Operation Council, a system has been created whereby the President chairs the University Planning and Operation Council, with the University implementing self-inspection and evaluation as well as improvement and reform initiatives.

Operating under the University Planning and Operation Council, the IR Promotion Committee has been established, and begun collecting and analyzing data for the entire University so that this information may contribute to self-inspection and evaluation, and expectations are held for future activities.

PDCA cycle mechanisms for internal quality assurance have been created; however, there are some areas where efforts are lacking with regard to operating the cycle in accordance with the articles of endowment, and it is anticipated that further efforts will be made to resolve these issues and enhance internal quality assurance functionality.

In summary, the University has established faculties, departments, and graduate schools based on its founding principles, mission, goals, and educational objectives, and is providing educational support and student living support appropriately. Not only has an educational curriculum been formulated appropriately in accordance with the three policies, but also student enrollment quotas are generally being steadily reached and the University's financial base is also stable.

With regard to administration, not only are operations generally being carried out appropriately in accordance with regulations, but also internal quality assurance measures are being undertaken proactively through implementation of self-inspection and evaluation.

Note that with regard to the University's unique standards, the general comments on "Standard A. Community collaboration and contribution" and "Standard B. Research Branding Project" should be referred to.

It should be noted that the University has cited the following remarks.

1. Workshop activities by the Department of History and Cultural Properties

2. Dietary education efforts by the Department of Food and Nutrition
3. Regional Invigoration Project by the Department of International Business Management